

S.N. 09/995,492

**AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS**

Claims 1-18 (Cancelled)

19. (Currently amended) A secure transaction system comprising a plurality of servers for providing a web-based tax service that allows merchant subscribers to accumulate tax information; and means for providing security for information on the servers and information transmitted between the servers and the merchant subscribers.

20. (Previously presented) The system of claim 19, wherein the web-based tax service further includes tax identification, tax computation, tax collection, tax remittance and tax reporting for audit servers.

21. (Previously presented) The system of claim 19, wherein the security means includes managed firewalls for preventing unwanted data from being entered into the system while data is being transmitted between subscribers and the servers.

22. (Previously presented) The system of claim 19, further comprising means for providing balancing and scalability of the servers.

23. (Previously presented) The system of claim 19 wherein the security means includes a tiered architecture, PKI 2-way authentication and authorization, HTTPS post, with XML document and SSH for remote administration.

24. (Previously presented) The system of claim 19, further comprising means for recording the disk usage, access logging and heart beat monitoring and sending alerts.

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25. (New) The system of claim 19, wherein the security means also provides security for information transmitted between the servers and the merchant subscribers

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